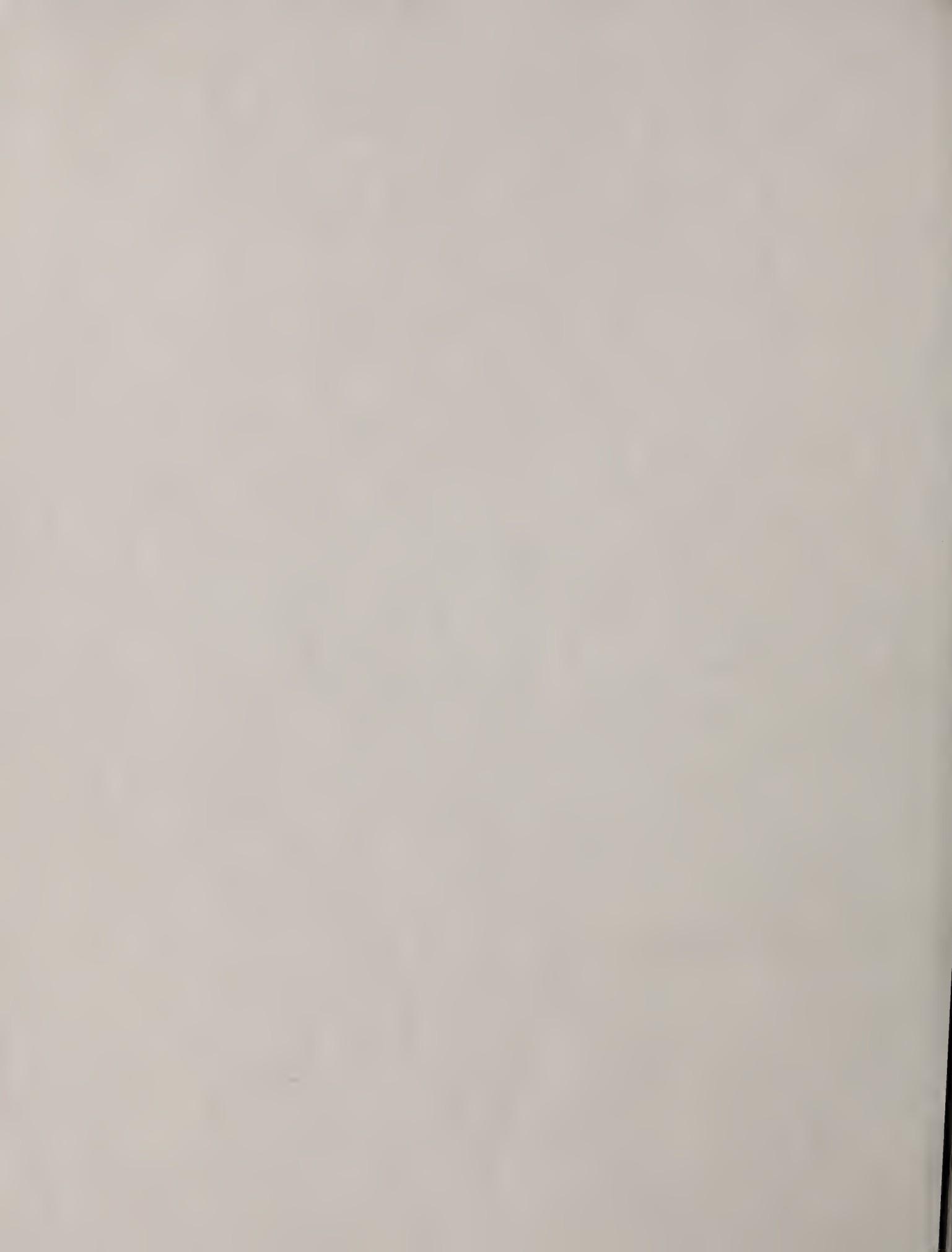
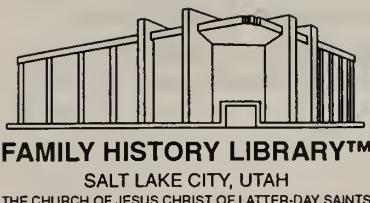


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## RESEARCH OUTLINE

BC 561778

# South Dakota

This outline describes major sources of information about families from South Dakota. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has few of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census, cemetery, histories, and Native American records. The library does not have copies of the county records of South Dakota.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA - GENEALOGY**

**SOUTH DAKOTA, BUTTE - CEMETERIES**

**SOUTH DAKOTA, BROWN, ABERDEEN - OBITUARIES**

- The record type you want to search, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA - GENEALOGY**

**SOUTH DAKOTA, BUTTE - CEMETERIES**

**SOUTH DAKOTA, BROWN, ABERDEEN - OBITUARIES**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- South Dakota State Historical Society  
900 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2294  
Telephone: 605-773-3458  
Fax: 605-773-6041

Three divisions of the South Dakota Historical Society include materials of interest to genealogists. The Historical Society Library houses printed materials, while the Archives Division maintains original records of South Dakota government jurisdictions and other historical documents. The Manuscript Division preserves unpublished materials.

- National Archives and Records  
Administration—Rocky Mountain Region  
P.O. Box 25307  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225  
Telephone: 303-236-0817  
Fax: 303-236-9297

- National Archives—Central Plains Region  
2312 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131-3011  
Telephone: 816-926-6272  
Fax: 816-926-6982

- South Dakota Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1101  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Telephone: 605-224-3670

- I.D. Weeks Library  
University of South Dakota  
414 E. Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
Telephone: 605-677-5371  
Fax: 605-677-5488

- Center for Western Studies  
P.O. Box 727  
Augustana College  
Sioux Falls, SD 57197  
Telephone: 605-336-4921  
Fax: 605-336-5447

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To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of South Dakota counties, use the nine inventories of county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has copies of most of these inventories.

### Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from South Dakota in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb  
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>  
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>  
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

### FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

## BIBLE RECORDS

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The Daughters of the American Revolution have compiled some South Dakota Bible records. These are on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL film 855209) and indexed in E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. II (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

## BIOGRAPHY

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The best collection of published biographies in South Dakota is at the South Dakota Office of History in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Building, East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD. Another biographical collection is found at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. There is no statewide biographical index or major manuscript collection. Many statewide, regional, and county histories have biographical sections which can be searched. Examples of such books are:

*Memorial and Biographical Record: An Illustrated Compendium of Biography Containing a Compendium of Local Biography*. Chicago: G.A. Ogle Co., 1897. (FHL film 1000587 item 2.)

*Fox's Who's Who Among South Dakotans: A Biographical Directory of Citizens Who Are Prominent in Professional, Political, Business and Civic Affairs of the State*. 2 vols. Pierre, S.D.: Fox Kindley, 1929. (FHL book 978.3 D3w vol. 1; film 1000589 items 6-7.)

Kingsbury, George Washington. *History of Dakota Territory and South Dakota: Its History and Its People By George Martin Smith*. 5 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Co., 1915. (FHL book 978.3 H2k; films 1000584-86.) Volumes 4 and 5 contain biographical sketches.

Holley, Frances Chamberlain. *Once Their Home: or Our Legacy From the Dahkotahs*. Chicago: Donohue & Henneberry, 1892. (FHL film 1000589 item 5.)

## CEMETERIES

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There is no major statewide collection or index of cemetery transcriptions from South Dakota. The Family History Library has records from some

graveyards in Butte, Lawrence, Pennington, and a few other counties. Tombstone inscriptions have also been published in some periodicals. See the *United States Research Outline* for suggestions on locating cemetery records.

## CENSUS

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### Federal

Many of the federal census records you'll want to use are found at the Family History Library and the National Archives and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for South Dakota for 1900, 1910, and 1920. The 1890 census has been destroyed. The 1890 veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

A statewide soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for the 1900 and 1920 censuses. The schedules and indexes are also available at the South Dakota State Historical Society.

### Territorial and State

South Dakota was included in the 1836 Wisconsin, the 1840 Iowa, the 1850 Minnesota (Pembina District), and the 1860 to 1880 Dakota territorial censuses.

Indexes to the federal censuses of the Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota territories have been published in book and fiche format for 1836, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. A partial soundex (phonetic) index is also available on microfilm for the 1880 census of Dakota Territory.

In addition to the federal censuses, territorial and state censuses exist for 1885 (Dakota territory), 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, and 1945. Most of the 1895 census was destroyed. Unique information found in the 1905 to 1945 censuses includes ethnic background, education, maiden name, church affiliation, and military service.

The territorial and state censuses are at the South Dakota State Historical Society. The 1885 and 1895 censuses are also available at the Family History Library. The 1885 census has been indexed.

See the section on "Native Races" for information on tribal census reports.

## CHURCH RECORDS

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Before 1900 the largest religious groups in South Dakota were the Roman Catholic, Lutheran,

Methodist Episcopal, and Congregational churches. The Family History Library has very few church records from South Dakota, but it has histories for some denominations.

Many denominations have collected their records in central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

### Congregational

Congregational Library  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
Telephone: 617-523-0470  
Fax: 617-523-0470

### Lutheran

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA Archives)  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4198  
Telephone: 773-380-2818

Many of their records can be borrowed for a small fee. For a list of the church records in their collection, see FHL fiche 6330690-93.

### Methodist

Archives and History Library  
Dakotas Conference  
United Methodist Church  
1331 West University Boulevard  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
Telephone: 605-996-6552  
Fax: 605-996-1766

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 460  
Mitchell, SD 57301

### Roman Catholic

Diocese of Rapid City  
Chancery Office  
606 Cathedral Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
Telephone: 605-343-3541  
Fax: 605-348-7985

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 678  
Rapid City, SD 57709

Diocese of Sioux Falls  
Chancery Office  
3100 West 41st Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Telephone: 605-334-9861  
Fax: 605-333-3346

A dissertation about the history of the Catholic Church is Mary Claudia Duratschek, *The Beginnings of Catholicism in South Dakota* (Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1943; FHL book 978.3 K2d; film 1036266 item 4).

## COURT RECORDS

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Major South Dakota courts that have kept records of genealogical value were established in 1889, when South Dakota became a state.

*Justices of the peace* have countywide jurisdiction over minor civil and criminal cases.

*Municipal courts* have citywide jurisdiction over minor civil and criminal cases.

*District county courts* have countywide jurisdiction over records of misdemeanors, minor civil cases, probates, guardianship, and juvenile matters.

*Circuit courts* have countywide jurisdiction over felonies, divorces, equity matters, misdemeanors, and some appeals.

*The Supreme Court* is the statewide appellate court.

The Family History Library does not have copies of court records for South Dakota. They are available at the clerk's office in the various county courthouses.

## DIRECTORIES

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Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in South Dakota. For example, the Family History Library has directories for the following:

- Sioux Falls  
1890-1891 . . . . . FHL film 1000906  
1902/3-1935. . . . FHL films 1843231—  
1941, 1962, 1968,  
1976, 1980, 1982 . FHL book 978.337/S1 E4p
- Rapid City  
1934, 1936, 1960, 1965, 1971  
1975, 1980, 1981 . FHL book 978.393 E4p

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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### People

During the first half of the nineteenth century, various Sioux (also called Dakota) tribes lived in the area that became South Dakota. These included the Santee, Teton, Yankton, and Yanktonnais tribes. The Dakota Sioux Indians comprise about five percent of the state's present population.

Most of the present inhabitants are descendants of pioneers who came to South Dakota before 1920.

Pre-statehood settlers of South Dakota generally came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. Many of the pre-1860 settlers were of Norwegian descent. Some came to southeastern South Dakota by covered wagon across northern Iowa or southern Minnesota. Others came by railway to St. Joseph, Missouri, then by steamboat up the Missouri River.

The first major influx of settlers began in 1863, after passage of the first Homestead Act. Homesteaders in the late 1860s and early 1870s came from the eastern and mid-western states. Many others came from Europe, including groups of Swedes, Danes, Czechs, and Germans from Russia. The Black Hills gold rush of 1875-1877 also attracted thousands of people.

The great Dakota land boom in northeastern and central South Dakota began in 1877 and reached its peak by 1887, two years before statehood. This boom, coinciding with the construction of railways into the region, brought many additional settlers. Immigrants of many ethnic backgrounds, especially English, Scandinavian, and Dutch, continued to come from nearby states of the upper Mississippi valley. Small groups also came directly from overseas, including Welsh immigrants and additional Germans from Russia.

New lands became available in the western part of the state in the early 1900s, but a severe drought in 1910 and 1911 brought a temporary halt to homesteading and caused significant emigration from the state.

### Records

Most European settlers in South Dakota came through the port of New York or other east coast ports. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes for American ports for the years 1820 to 1943, and for Canadian ports for 1865 to 1900. The library also has records of the Canadian border crossings of 1895 to 1954. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

Histories and compiled biographies of major ethnic groups such as the Czechs and the Russian Germans are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SOUTH DAKOTA - MINORITIES. American Indian records are generally listed under SOUTH DAKOTA - NATIVE RACES (see the "Native Races" section of this outline).

## GAZETTEERS

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Study local histories and maps to learn about places in South Dakota where your family lived. Two

guides that will help you identify South Dakota place-names are:

R. L. Polk & Company. *Northwestern Gazetteer: Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory*. St. Paul, Minn.: R. L. Polk & Company, 1914. (FHL films 1321220-1.)

Phillips, George H. *The Postoffices of South Dakota, 1861-1930*. Crete, Neb.: J-B Publishing, 1975. (FHL book 978.3 E8p.)

## GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. The Family History Library has copies of a few published genealogies.

A small collection of manuscript material is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection*. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. (FHL film 855209).

A published genealogical collection for South Dakota families is *Prairie Progress in West Central South Dakota* (Sioux Falls, S.D.: Historical Society of Old Stanley County, South Dakota, 1968; FHL book 978.35 D2h; film 1036396 item 4).

A helpful source for identifying French-Canadian ancestors who emigrated to South Dakota is Paul J. Lareau, and Elmer Courteau, *French-Canadian Families of the North Central States: A Genealogical Dictionary*, 8 vols. (St. Paul, Minn.: Northwest Territory French and Canadian Heritage Institute, 1980; FHL book 973 D2la; fiche 6010503-11).

## HISTORY

The following important events in the history of South Dakota affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1803 The United States acquired the region from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Between 1803 and 1858, the area was the domain of the Dakota Sioux Indians and fur traders from St. Louis.

1820 - 1840 U.S. military expeditions were sent to the area in the 1820s, and Army posts were established in the 1850s. At various times, the area was part of the territories of Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

1858 Yankton Sioux Indians ceded their claim to southeastern Dakota to the United States. Permanent white settlements were established at Yankton and Vermillion. For several years, settlement was confined to the area between the Big Sioux and the Missouri rivers.

1861 Congress created Dakota Territory, which included all of present-day North and South Dakota, Montana, and northern Wyoming. The first counties were established in southeastern Dakota in 1862. The creation of Montana Territory in 1864 and Wyoming Territory in 1868 reduced Dakota Territory to the area included in the two Dakotas of today.

1875 Discovery of gold in the Black Hills led to the opening of that area to white settlement in 1876. About 20,000 people came to South Dakota, but many left after a few months or years. The peak year of the gold rush was 1877.

1878 - 1887 The building of railroads in the region stimulated the great Dakota land boom, bringing settlers to most of the area east of the Missouri River.

1889 South Dakota was separated from North Dakota and became a state.

1900 - 1910 As railroads reached the western part of the state, the last land boom brought thousands of homesteaders.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of South Dakota is Herbert S. Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 2nd ed. (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1968; FHL book 978.3 H2s).

## LAND AND PROPERTY

### Federal Land Records

When the United States acquired South Dakota, most of the land became part of the public domain. The federal government surveyed available land into townships and transferred it to private ownership through local land offices. The first land office was established at Vermillion in 1861. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about the land entry process.

Land could be obtained through cash payment (cash entries), or by homesteading (after 1862). After a settler completed the requirements for land entry, his case file was sent to the General Land Office (GLO) in Washington, D.C., where a patent (first-title deed) was issued.

The local land offices recorded transactions for each section of land in tract books. They also created township plats, which are maps of land entries for each township.

To locate the land-entry or homestead case file for your ancestor, you will need to know either the patent number or the legal description (range, township, section) of the land. The county recorder of deeds may be able to tell you the legal description of the land, or you may be able to pinpoint the exact location by searching the entries in the tract book covering the approximate area concerned.

The original patents and copies of the tract books and township plats are at:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
222 North 32nd Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
Telephone: 406-255-2940  
Fax: 406-255-2894

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 36800  
Billings, MT 59101

The National Archives has the original homestead entry files, cash entry files, tract books, and township plats. Patent records since the 1960s of the BLM districts are also at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region at Denver.

### County records

After land was transferred from the government to private owners, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or redistributed through a divorce. These transactions have been recorded by the registrar of deeds in each county. The Family History Library does not have copies of the land records at the county courthouses in North Dakota.

## MAPS

University libraries in South Dakota have the best collections of maps for the state. The Family History Library has a few maps of the Dakota Territory published in 1865. Other maps of South Dakota from territorial status to statehood are on FHL film 002083. Maps of Indian reservations from 1910, 1911, and 1914 are on FHL film 1012663 item 6.

## MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records you'll want to use are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records. For South Dakota, the following sources are also very helpful:

### Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library has the index to service records of Union volunteers from the Dakota Territory (FHL film 881616) and the federal index to pension applications. The actual service and pension records are available only at the National Archives. The library also has a copy of the special census taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War. An index to the 1890 returns has been published.

### Indian Wars

The library has enlistment registers for soldiers who served in the regular army from 1798 to 1914 (FHL films 350307—). Many of these soldiers served in the western states, including South Dakota, during the Indian Wars. The enlistment registers provide the soldier's rank, unit, commanders, physical description, occupation, and birthplace. The records are arranged by year and alphabetically by surname.

The library has an index of soldiers who applied for pensions between 1892 and 1926, for service in the Indian Wars from 1817 to 1898 (FHL films 821610-21). The pension records are available only at the National Archives.

### Spanish-American War (1898)

A roster of the officers and enlisted men of the First Infantry Regiment, South Dakota Volunteers is in Doane Robinson, *History of South Dakota*, 2 vols. (B.F. Bowen & Co., 1904; FHL book 978.3 H2r v. 1; film 1000583).

### World War I (1917-1918)

For a published roster of soldiers who died in the war, see W. M. Haulee, F.G. Howe, A. C. Doyle, *Soldiers of the Great War*, 3 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Publishing Association, 1920; FHL book 973 M23s v. 3; fiche 6051244).

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for South Dakota, see:

United States Selective Service System, South Dakota. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National

Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509.  
Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-  
1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1877785.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

## NATIVE RACES

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) established several field agencies in South Dakota to administer Indian programs on eight different reservations. Various Sioux tribes lived on those reservations, including the Santee, Teton (Brule and Oglala), Yankton, and Yanktonnais. Other Indian tribes who lived in South Dakota in the early nineteenth century included the Arikara, Cheyenne, Omaha, and Poncas.

The Family History Library has 130 microfilms of BIA records from the Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Sisseton, Standing Rock, and other agencies. These include birth, marriage, death, adoption, census, school, land allotment, probate, military, and miscellaneous records. Most of the records were created between 1870 and 1970.

These records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under NATIVE RACES and other subjects such as CENSUS, VITAL RECORDS, and LAND AND PROPERTY. You will also find records listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog under the names of the tribe, such as SIOUX INDIANS.

The original BIA records are at the National Archives—Central Plains Region at Kansas City, MO (see Archives and Libraries Section above for address).

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

In the territorial era, naturalization proceedings were handled by the U.S. district courts. For information,

contact the National Archives—Central Plains Region at Kansas City.

After statehood in 1889, the clerk of the circuit court in each county was authorized to keep all naturalization records. You can obtain copies of declarations and petitions from the clerk's office.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Central Plains Region at Kansas City or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records from South Dakota.

## NEWSPAPERS

A few newspapers were published in the Dakota Territory in the 1860s and 1870s, but most began publication between 1880 and 1910. The genealogical periodical *Black Hills Nuggets* (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline) lists early newspapers which began publication between 1864 and 1883 (in vol. 5, issue 3).

The Family History Library has not acquired copies of South Dakota newspapers. The South Dakota Historical Society and the state universities and colleges have the largest collections of newspapers.

## PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for South Dakota research are:

*Black Hills Nuggets*. 1968—. Published by the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, P.O. Box 1495, Rapid City, SD 57709. (FHL book 978.393/R1 B2b; film 1698196 items 1-16, vols. 1-17; 1698197 items 1-9, vols. 18-26.)

*The Dakota Homestead Historical Newsletter* (formerly: *Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society*). 1972—. Published by the Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 485, Bismarck, ND 58501-0485. (FHL book 978.477 B2b.)

*Pioneer Pathfinder* 1975—. Published by the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society, 200 West 6th South, Sioux Falls, SD 57102-0302. (FHL book 978.3371/S1 B2p.)

*South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly*. 1982—. Published by the South Dakota Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1101, Pierre, SD 57501-1101. (FHL book 978.3 D25s.)

*The Tree Climber*. 1974. Published by the Aberdeen Area Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 493, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0493. (FHL book 978.3144/A1 D25t.)

## **PROBATE RECORDS**

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Prior to statehood, probate records were kept by the Territorial Probate Court. Contact the Archives Division of the South Dakota Historical Society for copies of territorial probate records.

Probate records are presently kept by the district county courts. South Dakota probate records include probate proceedings, petitions, affidavits, orders for sales, reports of sales, administrators' and executors' bonds, guardianship papers, wills, and letters of administration.

The Family History Library does not have copies of South Dakota probate records. You can obtain copies from the clerk's office in the various district county courthouses.

## **VITAL RECORDS**

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### **Birth and Death Records**

Pre-1905 records exist for some South Dakota counties. These records are located in the office of the registrar of deeds in each county.

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in 1905 and was generally complied with by 1932. Delayed birth records date from the early 1900s.

The State Department of Health has the state birth and death records. You can obtain copies by writing to:

State Department of Health  
Vital Records, Department of Health  
445 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3185  
Telephone: 605-773-3355

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the State Department of Health for current information.

### **Marriage Records**

Statewide registration of marriages began in 1905. Marriage records are located at the State Department of Health (see address above).

Before statewide registration, individual towns or counties issued marriage licenses and recorded marriages. These records usually begin within ten years of the creation of the county. For information about early marriage records, write to the county treasurer in the county where the marriage took place.

### **Divorce Records**

Records of divorce proceedings since 1905 are kept by the State Department of Health (address above). For information about earlier divorce records, write to the clerk of courts in the county where the divorce took place.

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination  
Family History Library  
35 N. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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50 E. North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA  
Fax: 801-240-2494

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File: US—South Dakota

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